

JULY 13, 2014
FIFTH SUNDAY OF
PENTECOST

Hearing God's Word brings
new life and growth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower and seed
Monday	Leviticus 26:3-20	A rich and poor harvest
Tuesday	Mark 4:26-32	Two parables of seeds
Wednesday	John 5:24-29	Hearing Jesus' words
Thursday	Hebrews 4:12-13	The word of God is active
Friday	Hebrews 6:1-8	Growing to maturity
Saturday	Psalms 1	The tree that prospers
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was planted." Matthew 13:23 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, make us like seeds that fall on good soil. Lead us to welcome, hear and understand your message, and do what it asks. Amen. (Matthew 13:23)

Mealtime Prayer:

From soil and seed you give us food to chew. May we grow up your works to do. Our praise and thanks we give to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's Word take root in your heart. May you grow as God's child and produce good things. Amen. (Matthew 13:23)

taking+
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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How have you grown over this past year (physically, socially, emotionally, vocationally, intellectually, spiritually)? What things have helped you grow?
- In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus spoke about four different seeds. Can you recall what happened to each?
- In your faith life at present, are you more like the path, the rocky ground, the thorn patch or the good soil? Explain your answer.

DEVOTIONS

Gather four small pots or containers. Fill the first with gravel to represent a path, the second with rocks, the third with thorns or thistles, and the fourth with good soil. Place these in your home devotional area. As part of your household devotional times this week, say the following prayer:

Lord God, please keep us from having hearts that are hard, like a path. Keep us from having hearts that are shallow, like soil on rocky ground. Keep us from having hearts that are easily choked, like seeds among thorns. Instead, make our hearts like good soil, so that we gladly receive your word and accept it. Amen.

SERVICE

Volunteer some time as a household to assist a neighbor or a needy person in your community to tidy up their garden or yard.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For a household activity, plant flower seeds in containers filled with potting soil. Place in a sunny window and take turns watering them over the next few weeks. Enjoy watching new life emerge!



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